

### Jefferson Memorial Forest

11311 Mitchell Hill Road PO Box 467 Fairdale, KY 40118

502/368-5404

www.memorialforest.com www.metro-parks.org forest@louisvilleky.gov parks@louisvilleky.gov

#### **Welcome Center**

Mon-Sat 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Sun 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

The Welcome Center is your destination for maps, gift items, program reservations, camping reservations, permits and Forest information.

#### **Directions**

From I-65 south, take the Gene Snyder Freeway (I-265) west and exit at New Cut Road. Turn left, go about one mile, and turn right onto Mitchell Hill Road. Follow the signs to the Forest.

#### **Mission Statement**

The mission of
Louisville Metro Parks
is to create
a City of Parks
and enhance the
quality of life for
citizens of Louisville Metro
by maintaining and acquiring
attractive, vibrant parks
and offering safe, diverse
recreation programs, and
protecting these lands
and resources for
future generations.

# FOREST FEST WRAP-UP

On Saturday, May 16th, Jefferson Memorial Forest hosted bluegrass legend Dr. Ralph Stanley and his band, The Clinch Mountain Boys.

After a week of rain, the sun shined and warmed the 4,600 fans who came to the Forest to hear this great man of bluegrass sing. Filling out the lineup was Kentucky Sassafras, Stone Hollow, Dozens of Dollars, and Bluegrass 101.

A great time was had by all as children played in the children's area and learned about the Forest at the nature booth. Adults shopped for crafts from area artists and bought souvenirs from their favorite bands. Families enjoyed picnics, and couples held hands as they sat and enjoyed the music. This was the biggest and best Forest Fest yet!

A festival this large doesn't happen without a lot of support. We wish to thank the following Louisville Metro Council Persons: Vicki Welch, District 13; Bob Henderson, District 14; Rick Blackwell, District 12; Madonna Flood, District 24; Judy Green, District 1; Robin Engel, District 22; James Peden, District 23; and David Tandy, District 4.

We'd also like to thank these businesses: Fairdale Dairy Queen; Byerly Ford Nissan; The Café; General Shale and Brick; and Fairdale Feed and Hardware.

Special thanks goes to Fairdale Pic-Pac, Fairdale McDaniel Funeral Home and Fairdale Lions Club. They have supported Forest Fest from the very beginning. Without them, it would not have continued to grow to the great event it has become.

This year ran all the smoother because of a dynamite group of program volunteers.

Jim Collings deserves a special thanks for helping with everything from getting sponsorships, helping promote the event on the radio, to setting up tents and chairs. This is the second year he has served as Forest Fest stage manager. He made sure everyone was where they needed to be and kept it all on time. Even though this was their first year, our volunteer naturalists were pros. They did everything from covering the children's area, sharing nature knowledge at the nature tent, keeping the food fresh and ready for the bands and sponsors as they came into the hospitality area and helping out wherever they saw a need. They even braved the traffic



Maggie Lander of Kentucky Sassafras.

More Forest Fest photos on page 5.

and ran to the store for aluminum foil and drinks when the hospitality area ran out! Great work!

The volunteers were: Jeff Ross, Gale Branch, Karen Samuels, Melissa Burton, Jane Garvey, Mike Lomax, Dick Dennis, Paul Gardner, Tina Newcomb, Pam Henninger, Larry Ott, Grace Koenig, Danny Witt, Chris Knopf, Tony Cissell, Jennifer Wright, Katie Horlander and Mark Jamison

The hospitality area would not have been so clean and organized without the hard work and determination of our hospitality area captains, Becky Collings and Dorothy Raso. These two ladies went above and beyond their duties and made sure the Horine Conference Center was spotless at the end of the day. We thank you and our maintenance staff thanks you!

Thanks to all who helped, all who played, and all who enjoyed the day. Plans for next year's event on Saturday, May 16th are already under way. If you would like information on how you can help support this growing event, including through sponsorship opportunities, please contact Tonya Swan – Public Education Supervisor and Forest Fest organizer at 502/368-6856.



# **FOREST Fest** 2008 Top to bottom: Dr. Ralph Stanley and James Allen Shelton; the crowd listens; craft time; Mike House of Stone Hollow plays to the crowd.

# Natural Areas News

#### STATUS OF WILDLIFE RESTORATION ACTIVITIES

Progress continues within various areas where Natural Areas staff is working to improve habitat conditions in accordance with various resource management plans. To that end, Forest staff, aided by staff from the Olmsted Conservancy and Metro Parks' Landscaping/Forest Division performed two prescribed burns



this spring. The first occurred at Iroquois Park's Summit Field. Originally planted in warm season grasses and forbs about 12 years ago, this excellent example of a restored wildlife habitat requires periodic maintenance by fire. Our second successful burn this year was at the Scott's Gap section of the Forest. This was an old



agricultural site, which presents its own challenges eliminating non-native plants brought in by prior agricultural practices. Like Iroquois, this was seeded in warm season grasses and forbs.

Fire management of natural areas is nothing new. Native Americans duplicated nature's occasional fire quite successfully. Fire helps reduce the non-native cool season grasses and promote the warm. Unfortunately, at Scott's Gap, the continued presence of invasive Johnson grass remains our biggest problem. Later this season staff will perform targeted herbicide treatments to reduce this and other invasive plants prior to over-seeding next spring.

In other areas, the Miles Park savannah (above at the left) created by Natural Areas staff last year is bursting with blackeyed susan (*Rudbeckia hirta*), purple coneflower (*Echinacea purpurpera*) and below at the left, yellow echinacea and grey headed coneflower (*Ratibida pinnata*). Soon, Illinois bundle flower and sunflower will appear.

At the Tyler Schooling property we are working with the Army Corps of Engineers and MSD in a wetlands mitigation project resulting in 600 seedlings per acre being been planted in a riparian buffer at the property. These seedlings are being planted by a contractor reporting to the Corps and we are closely monitoring their progress. Also at Tyler-Schooling, the Wild Habitat Incentive Program (WHIP) areas that were established two years ago are showing wonderful stands of Indian grass, little blue stem and big blue stem.

New Landscaping Supervisor Carl Suk is working closely with botanist Pat Haragan, who is rewriting the Flora of Jefferson County. They are monitoring rare plant communities present in some Metro Parks natural areas, including the cedar glades that support the rare Kentucky glade cress (*Leavenworthia exidua var. longifolia*) and Eggleston's violet (*Viola egglestonii*). Orchids such as the yellow lady's slipper, coral root and tway blade are also protected as well as the rare White Water Buttercup (*Ranunculus aquatilis*) and Tussock Sedge (*Carex stricta*).

#### GIS INTERN ON BOARD



Natural Areas GIS intern Kevin Moran.

Kevin Moran, 17, and a senior-to-be at Fairdale High School, has come on board for the summer as our geographical information systems (GIS) intern.

Fairdale High School is one of a handful of JCPS schools offering multi-year GIS programs for its students. Under the direction of Fairdale High School teacher Brent West, Kevin has mastered basic mapping skills using the latest ArcGIS software. He will assist us with inventory and mapping of trails and land management as well as creation of more useful and up-to-date visitor maps. Some of the information processed by Kevin is being provided to our master plan consultant team to help improve the final quality of that document. We are looking forward to continuing a partnership with Fairdale High School.

#### WAVERLY/JMF RTP GRANT

We are thrilled to announce that Metro Parks was successful in its recent application for a Recreational Trail Program grant in the amount of \$95,945 for improvements to the trail system at Waverly Park and Jefferson Memorial Forest. At Waverly Park, the improvements include creation of an accessible gravel trail around the fishing lake and improvements to the hiking/mountain biking trails in the park. As mentioned in past newsletters, other funding has been received by District 25 Councilman Doug Hawkins, Metro Council, and the Governor's Office for Local Development to fund other infrastructure and amenity improvements at the park. Construction on the project

is expected to begin this summer. The

Kentucky Mountain Bike Association and E-Corps are providing in-kind matching for this project by donating man-hours for trail construction.

In addition, the RTP grant will fund improvements to the equestrian trail in the Paul Yost section of the Jefferson Memorial Forest. The Kentucky Trail Riders Association and E-Corps are providing in-kind support for this portion of the RTP grant, and District

13 Metro Councilwoman Vicki Welch has graciously committed funding for the project through a contribution to the Metro Parks Foundation. The Paul Yost project is expected to begin as soon as field work is completed to determine the location and design of the final sustainable trail alignment.

# More Kids in the Woods Grant

Metro Parks is proud to be one of 16 national recipients of a U.S. Forest Service "More Kids in the Woods" grant. The Metro Parks project entitled "Connecting Urban Youth in Louisville to Nature" will be run by staff based at the Jefferson Memorial Forest. It is part of the Natural Areas effort to connect young children to nature within their local parks and natural areas and to contribute to Mayor Abramson's Healthy Hometown Movement. The \$36,459 grant will be supplemented with in-kind and other support from project partners including the Daniel Boone National Forest, Jefferson County Public Schools, Jefferson County Soil and Water Conservation District, Olmsted Conservancy, Metropolitan Sewer District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, and the Portland Wharf Museum. In keeping with research that indicates early and frequent contact with nature creates beneficial long-term connections between children and the outdoors, the program will provide multiple field trips for elementary students from King, Portland, and Young elementary schools located in the Shawnee and Portland neighborhoods. At

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# CHILDREN IN NATURE: SUMMER INSECTS



With summer comes beautiful native wildflowers that attract several insects, including butterflies. In the Native Garden.

butterflies are feeding on milkweed, ironweed, and Joe-Pye weed. If you want to collect insects with your children, wildflowers like these aren't necessary. Insects live everywhere and are easily found. Below is an activity you can enjoy with the children in your life.

#### **ACTIVITY: INSECTS**

Insects are everywhere and come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and colors. It is never boring looking for them. Native plants can attract beautiful insects and host their young by providing food and shelter as they grow and prepare to pupate (change form) into their adult form.

Searching for insects is easy to do in your own yard. All that is needed is a bug net and a jar. Remember to put holes in the lid so the insects can breathe. Your child or children can sweep the net along the ground in different types of habitat. The insects and spiders (yes, spiders too) will fall to the bottom of the net. You can help retrieve the "bugs" and place them in the jar. Let them look at them for awhile and perhaps draw them. Look at the differences between the spiders and insects. How many legs are there? How many body parts do you see? Explain that the animals need to be set free so they can return to their homes. Below are some books to help you in your search. Good luck!

Christa Weidner, Naturalist

Suggested books:

National Audubon Society First Field Guide: Insects by Christina Wilsdon, author, John Sill, illustrator

The Very Quiet Cricket by Eric Carle I Love Bugs! by Philemon Sturges, author, Shari Halpern, illustrator

# First Annual Kentucky Reptile and Amphibian Day



#### FREE EVENT September 20, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.

After six years of celebrating snakes and the important role they play in our environment, we decided to expand our appreciation to all reptiles and amphibians too! These two groups of animals have long suffered such comments as "They're slimy!" "They're gross!" - they just get no respect! So on Saturday, September 20th, Jefferson Memorial Forest will be on a mission to change all that. We have devoted a whole day to giving these creatures the respect they deserve! This event will highlight the important role all reptiles and amphibians from Kentucky play in the health of our eco-system as well as our own health. We will celebrate from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. There will be speakers, information booths, children's activities, items for sale and of course, lots of reptiles and amphibians. Our Environmental Education Center will be open to view our animals and exhibits. This program is for all ages. Bring your camera and a lunch, but please do not bring any reptile or amphibian pets.

# New Addition to Forest Staff

Due to growth of the Forest over the past few years, including an increase in the number of visitors to the Forest and expansion of our programs and activities, we have had a critical need for some additional help at the Welcome Center. Thankfully, we were able to receive some assistance this year. We hope you'll join us (albeit a little belatedly) in welcoming Susan Busk, secretary/receptionist to our staff. Susan has been with Metro Parks for almost three years and before coming to us in March she had previously worked at Otter Creek Park in a similar capacity. Susan considers herself a native of sunny California, but has lived all over the U.S. with Louisville but her most recent stop. Outside of work, sheis an accomplished artist/painter (in addition to many other interests). She has proven to be a tremendous benefit as she is very steady, outgoing, and extremely helpful to visitors as well as our staff. We hope you'll say hello to Susan the next time you visit the Welcome Center!





# Welcome Natural Areas' Volunteer Coordinator



Until May, we were fortunate to have the services of Samantha Davis, an AmeriCorps volunteer who spent approximately 10 to 15 hours per week

performing volunteer coordination duties at the Forest. Sam helped our volunteer program take positive steps forward and showed the benefits of having a person dedicated to coordinating volunteer activities within our operation. With her tour of duty ended, we wish Sam best of luck in her new position as an aide to Councilwoman Tina Ward-Pugh.

We are thrilled to announce that starting July 7th, Katherine Lynn will be the first official hire as a volunteer coordinator for the Jefferson Memorial Forest and Natural Areas Region. Katherine is a 2006 graduate of the University of Kentucky with a B.S. in Natural Resource Conservation and Management. She comes to Metro Parks from the Wolf Creek National Fish Hatchery where she has served as an environmental education/ outreach coordinating intern. Her enthusiasm, educational background, and experience will be tremendous assets to our program and we look forward to good things in the coming year as she become acclimated to her new role.

Katherine will coordinate with Metro Parks volunteer coordinator Mike Slaton and the various supervisors within the Natural Areas Region. Some of the items she will be responsible for include promotion and publicity related to our volunteer program opportunities; coordination of larger public volunteer events; coordinating volunteer appreciation activities and maintaining our volunteer databases; as well as working with other Metro Parks personnel to seek sponsorships for volunteer activities.

Please join us in welcoming Katherine to our staff! *Continued on page 7* 

# Trail Ranger + Trail Crew + KyMBA Volunteer Calendar

#### Trail Ranger Project Days

Saturday, July 12, 2008 Saturday, August 9, 2008 Saturday, September 13, 2008

Meet at the Forest Welcome Center dressed appropriate for the weather ready to patrol/document/work trails starting at 9 a.m.

#### Trail Ranger Outings/Events

Saturday, July 26, 2008 Saturday, August 23, 2008 Saturday, September 27, 2008

Weather and group interest will dictate.

#### KyMBA Crew and Volunteers @ Waverly Park

WAVERLY PARK Saturday, July 19 Saturday, August 16 Saturday, September 20

We meet near the lake starting at 9 a.m. to reroute new and restore old trails. Gloves, water, tools and energy bars provided. Wear sturdy shoes and dress appropriate for the weather. This is a great opportunity to tap into some awesome group energy and improve our trails.

For information on these opportunities and to join our Trail Ranger Patrol or Trail Construction Crew, please contact Larry Hilton, Naturalist, cell 502/797-5768 or office 502/361-0119.

# Volunteer Naturalists in Action

After a festive May 19th graduation celebration, our volunteer naturalists busied themselves helping around the Forest. To date, twenty-one volunteers have assisted with Forest Fest, shadowed environmental education programs, helped in the native garden, shadowed the alpine tower program, led woods walks, helped repair fishing equipment, and even organized a Saturday hiking group. One of the recent highlights was the Youth Citizens Police Academy (YPCA) group. The YCPA is ten-day program that teaches area youth life skills while providing a behind-the-scenes glimpse into many facets of police operations. The YCPA spends an afternoon at the Forest doing teambuilding activities and a woods walk. Our volunteers led the woods walk portion of this program, introducing a group from the Smoketown neighborhood to the natural wonders of the Forest.



# Volunteer Project Opportunities

Eagle Scouts, Gold and Silver Award Projects, Summer 2008:

- Install a twelve foot retaining wall next to the sidewalk and creek on the Tulip Tree Trail in the Tom Wallace Recreation Area of the Jefferson Memorial Forest.
- Remove approximately 100 discarded tires from an intermittent stream bed near the main road at Waverly Park.

Interested persons should contact Larry Hilton, Naturalist, at 502/797-5768.



# Public Program Calendar: July Through September

We offer a wide array of programs for all ages. For more information visit our website or call the Welcome Center at 502/368-5404. Our staff will be happy to help you make reservations, give you directions to the program location, or provide you a complete schedule of our programs throughout the year. For all programs, please wear close-toed walking shoes, and dress for the weather.

Reservations and payment are required in advance. The Forest reserves the right to cancel programs with insufficient registration. Rain checks will be provided.

#### **OUTDOOR SKILLS**

#### 9 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

All programs meet in the Horine Reservation. Cost is \$5 per person unless otherwise noted. Times, location, and fees are subject to change depending on the program.

#### #7 – TREE IDENTIFICATION

#### Saturday, July 5

Learn the basics of tree identification, using a dichotomous key, and some interesting facts about the trees found in the Forest

#### #8 - ARCHERY

#### Saturday, August 2

Archery is a great activity that can be shared by the entire family. National Field Archery Association Certified Staff will introduce you to Olympic-style archery. Learn how to shoot a bow and arrow within minutes. Bow safety will be stressed. This program is for all physical ability levels. All equipment is provided. Children 8 and over are welcome and must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

#### #9 – CANOEING AND BIRDING AT FALLS OF THE OHIO

\*note change in meeting location, times and fees.

#### Saturday, September 6, 9 a.m.-2:30 p.m.

Explore islands, look for shore birds and paddle the protected waters at Falls of the Ohio. All equipment will be provided. Bring a sack lunch. For ages 7 and up. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Program meets at the Welcome Center. There is space for 18 participants, with a maximum of 12 adults. No space will be available for individuals showing up on the day of the program. Canoe programs are subject to change of dates or venues due to water conditions. Fee: \$10

#### Pre-School Nature Adventures

9:30-11:30 a.m.

This program is for parents and children ages 3-5. There will be a story-time with crafts and snacks. This program provides experiences in nature for parents and little ones to share. Meets in the Horine Environmental Education Center. Fee: \$8 per child

#### THE TOWERING TREE

#### Tuesday, July 8 Saturday, July 12

Look! It's a home. It's food. It's a TREE! Trees provide so many things for us as well as for animals and other plants. Discover the secrets of trees from the roots up.

#### **TOTALLY TURTLES**

#### Saturday, August 9 Tuesday, August 12

Can turtles leave their shell behind? Are they the slowest animals in the world? Meet a variety of turtles from Kentucky up close.

#### **SSSNAKES**

#### Tuesday, September 9 Saturday, September 13

Discover the sssecrets of sssnakes! Feel for yourself if they are truly slimy and learn many more fascinating facts.

#### **EVENING PROGRAMS**

#### 7-9:30 p.m.

All programs meet in the Horine Reservation. Cost is \$5 per person Unless otherwise noted. Times, location, and fees are subject to change depending on the program.

#### **BATS**

#### Friday, July 11

A creature stalks Louisville in the darkness, swiftly swooping in on hundreds of victims each night. No need to fear, bats only eat bugs in Kentucky. Learn the truth from the myths that surround these beneficial little creatures.

#### **ALPINE TOWER**

#### Friday, August 8

Come challenge yourself with a night climb on our 52-foot Alpine climbing tower. Bring a headlamp if you want. This unique experience is only offered once a year. This program is for ages 10 and up. A parent or guardian must accompany all participants under the age of 18. Please wear: tennis shoes, long pants, or shorts (with inseam greater than 5"). Sign-up early as space is limited to 18 participants. Fee: \$10

#### CANOEING

#### Friday, September 12, 7-10:30 p.m.

By the light of the full moon, experience the tranquility of the evening as you drift on 46-acre McNeely Lake. See animals as they emerge and begin foraging for food along the lake's edge. Be sure to wear bug repellent. For ages 7 and up. All children must be accompanied by a parent or guardian. Program meets at the Welcome Center. There is space for 18 participants with a maximum of 12 adults. No space will be available for individuals showing up on the day of the program.

Fee: \$10



#### HOWL AT THE MOON

Friday, July 18, 7-8:30 p.m. Friday, August 15 Friday, September 19

Come out to the Forest for an evening romp through the woods with your dog! Metro Parks staff will lead owners and their pooches on a hike through the woods. Keep in mind that your dog will be around other dogs and people. Non-retractable leashes and good behavior are required. As a courtesy to other dogs, please make sure your pet is up to date on their vaccinations. Meet in the Horine Reservation. Fee: \$5 per dog

# Alpine Tower Public Program

Saturday, July 26, 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m. Saturday, August 23 Saturday, September 27

Come challenge yourself on our 52-foot Alpine climbing tower. Learn basic climbing and belaying techniques while experiencing increased self-esteem, confidence, and problem-solving skills from tackling this "high altitude" obstacle course. This program is for ages 10 and up. A parent or guardian must accompany all participants under the age of 18. Please wear: tennis shoes, long pants, or shorts with an inseam greater than 5 inches. Sign-up early, as space is limited to 18 participants. Meet in the Horine Reservation. Fee: \$10 per person per session

# ELIMINATE WASTE AND GET THIS NEWSLETTER BY EMAIL!

Do your part to save trees and keep our costs down, by emailing forest@louisvilleky.gov with the request "subscribe to newsletter." Include your name and the mailing address where you received this issue, and you will then only receive electronic copies of future newsletters.

#### Senior Bird Watching Program

8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Our senior birding program is free and full of fun. You will learn how to identify birds by the way they look and sound. Each program is guided by a Forest naturalist. and consists of transportation to the various sites, and short easy hikes. After you work up an appetite, participants are taken to lunch at local eateries. Although this program is free, you will need to bring money to purchase your lunch. All programs meet at the Forest Welcome Center. Fee: Free

#### Monday, July 7

Kulmer Beach and Tioga Falls -Participants will look for shore and forest birds. Participants may choose to meet at Kulmer Beach. Please let us know when making your reservation so that you receive directions to the location.

#### Monday, September 8

Shawnee Park - Participants will be looking for shore birds near the Ohio River and song birds that inhabit urban areas. Participants may choose to meet at Shawnee Park. Please let us know when making your reservation so that you receive directions to the location.

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parks near their schools, at the Jefferson Memorial Forest and during an inspiring visit for to the Red River Gorge Geologic Area, students will explore a range of environmental topics that support JCPS science curriculum.

#### Memorial Forest Building E-corps Partnership

In June 2008, Metro Parks and YouthBuild/E-corps initiated a new partnership that will help the Metro Parks Natural Areas Division better meet its stewardship obligations regarding landscape and trails management. YouthBuild/E-Corps is a local non-profit with the wonderful mission of helping at-risk youth in the community further their education goals and gain beneficial job skills while serving the community. So far, E-corps crews have assisted Naturalist Larry Hilton with trail construction and maintenance activities at Waverly Park and have assisted Landscaping Supervisor Carl Suk with landscaping improvements at the Jefferson Memorial Forest and other natural areas. Quoting Carl, "It's a pleasure working with these young folks, they are energetic, learn quickly and seem to enjoy working with nature." Larry echoed that sentiment adding, "The E-Corps group has been exciting and energetic while helping us build some sweet sections of low maintenance trail. Their dedication and hard work is appreciated."

> Michael Mudd and members of the new YouthBuild/E-Corps park stewardship group.



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Jerry E. Abramson, Mayor Louisville Metro Council



## FOREST MASTER PLAN UPDATE

This spring significant progress has been made towards the goal of developing the master plan for Jefferson Memorial Forest. On May 21st, approximately 75 people attended the initial public meeting for the plan at Fairdale High School. At the meeting, Metro Parks staff and our consultant team presented some of the information being used to establish the baseline conditions at the Forest. Determining these baseline conditions is necessary in order to develop appropriate and realistic recommendations for improvements to the Forest. These included substantial information related to the natural resources of the forest and the suitability of certain areas for specific purposes.

Those present were also asked to provide comments and suggestions related to recreational opportunities; environmental and outdoor educational programming; visitor center amenities; and access, circulation, and way-finding within the forest preserve and park areas. We would like to thank those who took the time to attend the meeting and are very appreciative of the comments received during the meeting as well as before and immediately after the meeting via e-mail.

Those interested in staying abreast of the status of the master planning process and reviewing information from the public meetings can visit <a href="www.metro-parks.org">www.metro-parks.org</a>. Using the park finder tool and selecting Jefferson Memorial Forest, you can review documentation related to the Forest master plan.

Our next public meeting was not scheduled at press time, so if you are not currently on our e-mail list, please contact us so we can include you. Otherwise, notices will be published in the *Courier-Journal* and on our website.

